

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. (currently amended) A method of provisioning a circuit comprising the steps of:

provisioning an Ethernet port facility, including determining members of a Link Capacity Adjustment Scheme Virtual Concatenation Group before virtual tributary or synchronous transport signal cross connections are provisioned and before Synchronous Optical Network or Synchronous Digital Hierarchy cross-connections are provisioned;

provisioning virtual tributary or synchronous transport signal cross connections; and

provisioning Synchronous Optical Network or Synchronous Digital Hierarchy cross-connections after provisioning virtual tributary or synchronous transport signal cross connections,

wherein each member in the Link Capacity Adjustment Scheme Virtual Concatenation Group returns a Link Capacity Adjustment Scheme sink status of FAIL before virtual tributary or synchronous transport signal cross connections are provisioned and before Synchronous Optical Network or Synchronous Digital Hierarchy cross-connections are provisioned and at least one member in the Link Capacity Adjustment Scheme Virtual Concatenation Group returns a Link Capacity Adjustment Scheme sink status of OK after the Synchronous Optical Network or Synchronous Digital Hierarchy cross-connections are provisioned.

2. (cancelled)

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the method further comprises the step of:
using Link Capacity Adjustment Scheme source and sink adaptation functions,
automatically activating the Virtual Concatenation Group members.
4. (currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of using Link Capacity Adjustment Scheme source and sink adaptation functions, automatically activating the Virtual Concatenation Group members comprises the step of:
causing the Virtual Concatenation Group members to have an Link Capacity Adjustment Scheme sink status of OK and an operational Link Capacity Adjustment Scheme source state of NORM or EOS after the Synchronous Optical Network or Synchronous Digital Hierarchy cross-connections are provisioned.
5. (currently amended) A system for provisioning a circuit comprising:
means for provisioning an Ethernet port facility, including determining members of a Link Capacity Adjustment Scheme Virtual Concatenation Group before virtual tributary or synchronous transport signal cross connections are provisioned and before Synchronous Optical Network or Synchronous Digital Hierarchy cross-connections are provisioned;
means for provisioning virtual tributary or synchronous transport signal cross connections;
and
means for provisioning Synchronous Optical Network or Synchronous Digital Hierarchy cross-connections after provisioning virtual tributary or synchronous transport signal cross connections,
wherein each member in the Link Capacity Adjustment Scheme Virtual Concatenation Group returns a Link Capacity Adjustment Scheme sink status of FAIL before virtual tributary or synchronous transport signal cross connections are provisioned and before Synchronous Optical

Network or Synchronous Digital Hierarchy cross-connections are provisioned and at least one member in the Link Capacity Adjustment Scheme Virtual Concatenation Group returns a Link Capacity Adjustment Scheme sink status of OK after the Synchronous Optical Network or Synchronous Digital Hierarchy cross-connections are provisioned.

6. (cancelled)

7. (original) The system of claim 6, wherein the method further comprises the step of:

means for using Link Capacity Adjustment Scheme source and sink adaptation functions, automatically activating the Virtual Concatenation Group members.

8. (currently amended) The system of claim 7, wherein the step of using Link Capacity Adjustment Scheme source and sink adaptation functions, automatically activating the Virtual Concatenation Group members comprises the step of:

means for causing the Virtual Concatenation Group members to have an Link Capacity Adjustment Scheme sink status of OK and an operational Link Capacity Adjustment Scheme source state of NORM or EOS after the Synchronous Optical Network or Synchronous Digital Hierarchy cross-connections are provisioned.

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

This communication is in response to the Office Action mailed on November 28, 2007. The Office Action rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Chohan et al. (U.S. Publication Application No. 2004/0120362). Claims 1, 4, 5 and 8 have been amended and claims 2 and 6 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3-5, 7, and 8 are now pending in the application.

Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to recite the limitation “wherein each member in the Link Capacity Adjustment Scheme Virtual Concatenation Group returns a Link Capacity Adjustment Scheme sink status of FAIL before virtual tributary or synchronous transport signal cross connections are provisioned and before Synchronous Optical Network or Synchronous Digital Hierarchy cross-connections are provisioned and at least one member in the Link Capacity Adjustment Scheme Virtual Concatenation Group returns a Link Capacity Adjustment Scheme sink status of OK after the Synchronous Optical Network or Synchronous Digital Hierarchy cross-connections are provisioned.” As amended, claims 1 and 5 clearly set forth characteristics that members of a VCG have prior to, and after, the Synchronous Optical Network or Synchronous Digital Hierarchy cross-connections are provisioned for a SONET/SDH circuit.

Chohan fails to teach the invention as now claimed by claims 1 and 5. Chohan merely discloses a technique for performing LCAS that implements a chip to provide mappings for adding and removing members of a VCG, which are then provisioned by a processor in accordance with provisioning requirements programmed into the processor. Commands to add and remove members of a VCG to increase and decrease bandwidth are executed as specified by the provisioning requirements of the processor. The determination of members of a Link Capacity Adjustment Scheme Virtual Concatenation and the provisioning of virtual tributary or

synchronous transport signal cross connections does not occur before the Synchronous Optical Network or Synchronous Digital Hierarchy cross-connections are provisioned. In Chohan, the determination of members of a Link Capacity Adjustment Scheme Virtual Concatenation and the provisioning of virtual tributary or synchronous transport signal cross connections are performed after the Synchronous Optical Network or Synchronous Digital Hierarchy cross-connections are provisioned because members of VCGs are disclosed as being already in use (carrying payload). Evidence that the Synchronous Optical Network or Synchronous Digital Hierarchy cross-connections have already been provisioned in Chohan can be found in paragraph 16, which discloses that LCAS is a two-way handshake scheme where messages are exchanged between source and destination. In addition, paragraph 22 confirms that the messages exchanged are between a source and a destination because the “Do Not Use” state is reported by the destination. Accordingly, The determination of members of a Link Capacity Adjustment Scheme Virtual Concatenation and the provisioning of virtual tributary or synchronous transport signal cross connections does not occur before the Synchronous Optical Network or Synchronous Digital Hierarchy cross-connections are provisioned. In addition, Chohan fails to disclose LCAS sink states as now claim in claims 1 and 5 Chohan only discloses control commands (i.e., LCAS operational states). Accordingly, claims 1 and 5 are not anticipated by Chohan for at least the reasons stated above.

Additional Fees:

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with this application to Deposit Account No. 50-4047 (415772.0013)